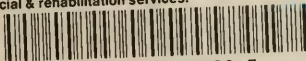


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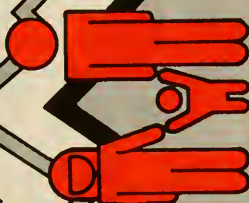
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SOCIAL & REHABILITATION SERVICES



The business of SRS is people.

Known in some circles as "an umbrella agency" (because of its wide range of services), SRS provides services to the poor, the young, the handicapped and the elders of Montana. It operates through county welfare and human services offices as well as through contracts with Area Agencies on Aging, Human Resources Development Councils, and other private community corporations.

This booklet will give you a brief but broad survey of the programs provided through the Montana Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services.

For more information contact

Social and Rehabilitation Services

111 Sanders Street

P.O. Box 4210

Helena, Montana 59604

406/444-3860

or call the

Citizens' Advocate Office

1-800-332-2272



SERVICES TO CHILDREN

Protective Services

State law mandates the protection of children whose health and welfare may be adversely affected by the conduct of the people responsible for their care. The natural and inherent right of parents to the care, custody and control of their children, protected by due process, is a trust, not an absolute. When parental care endangers a child's normal physical, emotional and/or social development, the Division's Child Protective Services staff step in to help.

Report suspected child abuse and neglect to county welfare or human services offices, local law enforcement agencies or the 24-hour Child Abuse Hotline (toll-free 1-800-332-6100).

Child Welfare and Other Services

Child Welfare services include family counseling, day care, foster care, referral for medical care, unmarried mother services and adoption.

The Community Services Division provides other supportive services to children and their families through various contracts. Contracted services include Big Brothers and Sisters, family counseling, legal services, domestic violence services and local activities aimed at preventing child abuse and neglect.

For more information call your county welfare or human services office.



SERVICES TO ADULTS

Protective Services

When elderly or disabled adults suffer mentally or physically from abuse, neglect or exploitation, they need protective services. To the extent that funds are available, these may include social and legal assistance as well as help in obtaining medical care and other needed services.

Abuse, neglect and exploitation are most often noticed and reported by neighbors, relatives and public or private service workers, many of whom are legally bound to report these situations.

Reports are made to county welfare or human service offices or county attorneys. If a report concerns someone age 60 or older who lives in a nursing or personal care home, rooming house or retirement home, the report should be made to the Long-Term Care Ombudsman toll-free at 1-800-332-2272.

Supportive Services

With help, elderly or disabled Montanans can live in the least restrictive setting. Adults who live at home may be provided a home attendant to help them with household management, personal care and social activities. They can also

get information and advice to help them maintain their present living arrangements, find the most appropriate place to live and obtain medical and other services.

More information on these services is available from county welfare and human services offices.

Aging Services

Montanans age 60 and older can receive various services through eleven Area Agencies on Aging. These services include in-home services, group and home-delivered meals, senior citizen centers, legal services, information and referral and ombudsman services.

For more information on these services call toll-free the Long-term Care Ombudsman at the Citizens' Advocate office at 1-800-332-2272.



SERVICES TO PEOPLE WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

SRS contracts with private nonprofit corporations to provide a wide range of services in community settings to people with developmental disabilities (mental retardation, cerebral palsy, epilepsy and autism). Community programs operate on the assumption that people with developmental disabilities are better served when they live and work in places that are as close to normal as possible. Integration into the community and increased independence form the cornerstone of this assumption.

Individual needs shape the services clients receive to the extent possible within a variety of residential settings—both natural and foster family homes, community group homes, transitional living apartments and the clients' own residences—and day service programs such as work activity centers, sheltered workshops and training for jobs.

The Developmental Disabilities Division funds and monitors all contracted services. Individual Habilitation Planning Teams or Family Services Planning Teams (for children who live in their own homes) coordinate each client's services.

Division offices are in Billings, Butte, Glasgow, Great Falls, Helena, Kalispell, Miles City and Missoula.



REHABILITATIVE AND VISUAL SERVICES

Disabled people receive help to achieve their optimum work potential through Montana's wide range of vocational rehabilitation services.

Any reasonable service disabled people need to get back to work can be provided such as evaluation, counseling, guidance, referral, restoration, tools, training and placement. Individuals' disabilities and interests shape their service plans.


Except for evaluation, guidance, counseling and placement, all services are based on financial need, available resources and current market conditions.

Two criteria determine eligibility: a mental or physical disability or blindness which results in a handicap to employment and a reasonable expectation that these services would lead to gainful work. Disabilities may be temporary, moderate or severe, caused by accident, illness or birth defect.

Rehabilitative Services district offices are in Billings, Bozeman, Browning, Butte, Glasgow, Great Falls, Havre, Helena, Kalispell, Miles City, Missoula, Ronan and Warm Springs.

A specialized program for blind and visually disabled Montanans provides rehabilitation, orientation and mobility training services in addition to all those mentioned above, regardless of economic need.

Visual Services offices are located in Billings, Butte, Great Falls, Miles City and Missoula.



AID TO FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENT CHILDREN

Children or families with children who are in financial need may receive money and services to help meet living costs through this state-federal program.

To be eligible for AFDC, the household must include a child deprived in some way of parental support and living with a parent or other legally related person. Also, the child must be under 18 years of age. A child over 18 but less than 19 who is attending high school or an equivalent and who expects to graduate in or before the month of his or her 19th birthday may also be eligible.

When economically needy women are pregnant, they may qualify for AFDC during the last three months of pregnancy.

To be eligible for this program, resources and income must not exceed set limits.

Applications for AFDC assistance are made through county welfare and human services offices.



MEDICAID

Basic Services

Medicaid is a state-administered federal program that pays medical bills for eligible low income people who can't afford the cost of health care.

Medicaid helps pay the costs of basic medical services such as physicians, dentists, hospitals, nursing homes, community and home programs, medical supplies and other health care necessities.

Medicaid recipients need to be aware that not all medical goods and services are paid for by Medicaid nor do all health care providers take part in the Medicaid program. All services must be medically necessary.

Some Medicaid services may require a small co-payment from the individual. Co-payment amounts range from \$.50 to \$3.00 depending on the type of medical service provided.

If you use Medicaid, you are entitled to the same quality of health care that is available to the general public.

Preventive Services for Young People

Early periodic screening, diagnosis and treatment (EPSDT) is a special element of Medicaid for young people under 21 years of age. This preventive health program offers regular checkups for physical, visual, hearing or developmental problems and, if called for, follow-up treatment.

Applications for Medicaid assistance are made through county welfare and human services offices.



FOOD STAMPS

The federal food stamp program provides monthly benefits to help people in low-income households buy the food they need for good health. For most households, food stamps make up only part of the food budget. Food stamp recipients spend some of their own cash along with their food stamps in order to buy enough food for each month.

People eligible for food stamps work for low wages, are unemployed or work part time, receive welfare or other assistance payments or are elderly or disabled and live on a small income.

The amount of food stamps granted to a household depends on the number of people in the household and the monthly income the household has after certain deductions have been made. The basic rules of the program hold true across the country.

The State of Montana administers this program through county welfare and human services offices.



LOW INCOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Two state-federal programs aim to help Montanans make their homes warm and weather-tight: home weatherization and fuel assistance (LIEAP).

The national home weatherization program makes it possible for people with low incomes to reduce their heating costs and conserve energy. Weatherizing homes permanently lowers energy consumption, lessens our dependency on foreign oil and conserves our natural resources. Materials and labor for weatherization projects are obtained locally whenever possible—a boost for local communities. Limited funds make it necessary to rank applications according to need (the elderly or disabled are considered first).

Fuel assistance (LIEAP) will pay *part* of home energy costs for eligible households. Payments are most often made directly to local utility companies and vendors.

Eligibility for both these programs is based on income. Households receiving benefits from other public assistance programs may automatically qualify.

Human Resource Development Councils and county welfare and human service offices handle these assistance programs in most communities. To find your local contact call the Citizens' Advocate Office at 1-800-332-2272.

DEPT. OF SOCIAL & REHABILITATION SERVICES

P.O. Box 4210, 111 North Sanders Street
Helena, Montana 59604

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